



WHAT GIFTS WILL YOU SHARE

CARLSBAD COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



A Teenager's Perspective on the Volunteer Spirit

By Lillian Tran, Carlsbad High School student

Volunteering is one concept that seems to have been forgotten by many of today's teenagers. They just can't seem to find the time to get involved within their community. Recently, public high schools have attempted to alter this discouraging trend by setting a requirement for a certain number of community service hours before graduation.

Imposing such a requirement on high school students certainly increases teenage involvement in the community and provides a huge volunteer workforce. Unfortunately, some teenagers view volunteering as a chore, performing their community service grudgingly, rather than willingly. This is an unfortunate outcome of the volunteer requirement because I believe that teenagers can add spirit, energy, and enthusiasm to any event.

As a high school student myself, I can safely claim that volunteer opportunities – ones that might spark many a bored student's interest – are not being made readily accessible to teenagers. But, more volunteer opportunities are being offered on the Internet, a place frequented often by teens. Our own city has a website specifically for volunteer opportunities in Carlsbad. The website is www.MyVolunteerPage.com/Carlsbad. I encourage teens to visit it often, and learn more about how to get involved, get credit, and make a difference.

As a volunteer, I was once very much under the impression that volunteering encompassed a single idea – that there was nothing more than menial work, such as picking up trash, filing paper work, and logging hours. But I learned that to volunteer is not only to do these tasks. It's also the people that you meet, that you befriend, that you help, that make volunteering experiences worthwhile and fulfilling. This realization, I hope, will come to more teenagers and with just a little bit more altruism and sense of community for each person, it will be surprising to see just how great our city can really be.

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Volunteer Youth In Action

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Lillian Tran, author of *"A Teenager's Perspective,"* tries out Cole Library's wireless connection to the Internet.

With the new trend in education to require community service hours for graduation from high school, the number of teen volunteers is skyrocketing.

Through volunteering, teens both give and receive. According to research, over 70 percent of the teens that volunteer report that volunteering gives them a new perspective. Youth reported both societal and personal benefits from their volunteering. It establishes a foundation for lifelong civic engagement.



Megan Grosse joins her mother, Lisa, to volunteer at the Carlsbad Triathlon.



Volunteers for the Swim Complex are often recruited from Carlsbad High School located right next door.

**"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment
before starting to improve the world."**

Anne Frank

Special Opportunities for You

Leo Carrillo Ranch Docents

If you have an interest in history, the Golden Era of Hollywood, or adobe construction, you will have the opportunity to learn more about all of these topics during your training to become a docent for Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park. Lead tours with students or adults and share the fascinating cultural and natural heritage of this unique site. Weekday morning (9-11:00 a.m.) availability preferred. Contact Mick at 760-476-1042 or mcala@ci.carlsbad.ca.us for more information.

Special Events Coordinator at the Fire Department

Assist Fire Department staff in all aspects of creating, planning and presenting special events. Fire Department special events include ceremonial and recognition occasions, like the annual Badge/Promotion Ceremony, media events, Fire Prevention Week Open House, and multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional drills. If you enjoy planning and presenting special events and would enjoy working with the Fire Department, please contact Sue at 760-434-2906 or sirey@ci.carlsbad.ca.us.

CityStuff ... Introducing Children to Their Carlsbad World

CityStuff is a great opportunity to inform and inspire third-graders while teaching them all about Carlsbad government. Choose a school classroom near you and give students memorable lessons in democracy. Volunteers receive a three-hour training that prepares them to deliver six one-hour hands-on presentations based on superb materials developed by Junior Achievement and the City of Carlsbad. The Spring 2006 CityStuff Curriculum begins in March. Sign up now – Contact Marilyn Campbell at 760-439-3716 or wrt4fn@cox.net.

Carlsbad Historical Society

Share your passion for Carlsbad's history by becoming a docent for the Carlsbad Historical Society. Join the monthly training sessions for volunteer docent positions at Carlsbad's only local history museum, housed at Magee House. When you step into the Magee House museum, you take a step back in time. Contact the Carlsbad Historical Society at 760-434-9189 or cbadhistory@yahoo.com.

Carlsbad News

Fall Festival

This community celebration has something for everyone – a chili cook-off, an artisan faire, and country line dancing. Celebrate the harvest at Leo Carrillo Ranch on Saturday, November 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Alternative to 411

If your household racks up a lot of calls to 411, you may be interested in a no-cost alternative. You will have to listen to an advertisement, then a live operator will give you directory assistance. Dial 800-SAN-DIEGO (800-726-3434) to try out the service.

Visit the City's "Newly-Renovated" Website

Carlsbad's Technology Department has "spiffed" up the City's website and given it a new web address. Check it out at www.carlsbadca.gov. If you forget and use the old web address, you will automatically be directed to the new one. Happy surfing!

Happy Thanksgiving!
We are Thankful for our Volunteers!